

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DESIGN ELEMENT

Introduction

The purpose of the Community Health and Design Element is to provide the framework for building communities that promote healthier lifestyles. The linkage between design and health has been well documented by numerous sources. Public and private organizations across the disciplines of planning and public health have conducted studies confirming the benefits pedestrian friendly development patterns can have in supporting health-sustaining activities, increasing physical activity and creating environments that are conducive to better health. This research has been the foundation and reference for the goals, objectives and policies advanced within this element.

GOAL

TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES THROUGH DESIGN AND FOOD ACCESS POLICIES THAT IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF RESIDENTS BY INCREASING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, ASSURING SAFETY, PROVIDING A NUTRITIONAL FOOD ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTING NATURAL SYSTEMS.

Objective CHD-1

Miami-Dade County shall apply design standards to the public domain to encourage physical activity.

Policies

- CHD-1A. Miami-Dade County shall create a network of sidewalks, trails, accessible parks and recreation facilities that establishes a pedestrian-friendly environment, which encourages physical activity and links destinations, such as restaurants, shops, work places and neighborhood-based retail to each other and residential areas.
- CHD-1B. Encourage all citizens to participate in physical activity by designing public space to universal access standards (ability of all people to have equal opportunity and access to services).
- CHD-1C. Design and develop neighborhoods that provide a comfortable environment conducive for programs that integrate physical activity in the daily lives of children and adults.
- CHD-1D. Design communities to support children's daily routines by establishing proximity among uses (e.g. schools, daycare, community centers, recreation facilities, open space, etc.).

- CHD-1E. Designate locations for carpooling and bus stops that encourage residents to maintain a daily level of walking as part of their commute, and are designed in a manner that reflects the character of the community or district where the stops are located.
- CHD-1F. Adopt and implement by 2014 high-quality streetscape design standards and façade treatments to reflect the character of the community to attract pedestrian activity.
- CHD-1G. Promote coordination between jurisdictions in the planning and implementation of bicycle, trail, transit, pedestrian and other alternative transportation modes to establish continuous networks that support healthy communities.
- CHD-1H. Adopt and implement by 2014 a signage and way-finding program within the public realm that is an aesthetic enhancement to the community. It should inform visitors of key locations, corridors and pedestrian/bicycle routes to destinations and amenities.
- CHD-1I. Create walkable environments between tourist destinations through design guidelines that take measures to enhance the public realm and encourage pedestrian/bicycle activity.
- CHD-1J. Apply guidelines from the Aesthetic Master Plan and Urban Design Manual to new and existing gateways, corridors and civic facilities.

Objective CHD-2

Miami-Dade County shall apply design standards to private development projects to encourage physical activity.

Policies

- CHD-2A. Miami-Dade County will encourage land development to incorporate community design principles that encourage physical activity through the promotion of strategies, when appropriate, but not limited to:
1. Utilization of non-motorized transportation modes;
 2. Location of public facilities accessible by multiple transportation modes;
 3. Availability and maintenance of quality pedestrian paths or sidewalks;
 4. Provision of street furniture and lighting enhancements;
 5. Provision of civic and recreational facilities;
 6. Establishment of interconnectivity between similar development projects through vehicular and/or pedestrian/bicycle cross access; and
 7. Provision of pedestrian and bicycle linkages between existing residential and non-residential land uses.
- CHD-2B. Encourage well designed infill and redevelopment to reduce vehicle miles traveled and improve air quality.

CHD-2C. Continue to conduct Area Plan studies and urban center rezonings that concentrate new population growth in areas with a mix of land uses, adequate infrastructure services and higher densities as a means of promoting healthy communities.

Objective CHD-3

Institute safety measures through urban design and material standards.

Policies

CHD-3A. Design and develop neighborhoods that can facilitate children walking safely to Miami-Dade County Schools.

CHD-3B. Encourage walking and bicycle riding as a means of transportation to and from school, by implementing capital projects that support the development of safe routes to school.

CHD-3C. Prepare design standards for lighting as a pedestrian safety measure along streets, paths, crosswalks and other points of vehicular conflict, as well as within public spaces.

CHD-3D. Update street design standards to incorporate traffic-calming measures, such as special paved crosswalks at key intersections and/or mid-block crossings, where applicable to promote pedestrian safety.

CHD-3E. Miami-Dade County shall consider the use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies in site design by integrating CPTED strategies into the zoning code and Urban Design Manual.

CHD-3F. Miami-Dade County shall consider the use of CPTED strategies to address the safety of pedestrians in parking lots, transit terminals, parks and other public areas.

Objective CHD-4

Promote local food production and improve access to healthy food products for all residents of Miami-Dade County.

Policies

CHD-4A. Promote increased production and expand the availability of agricultural goods and other food products produced in Miami-Dade County.

CHD-4B. Promote the local sale and consumption of agricultural goods and other food products produced in Florida and specifically Miami-Dade County.

CHD-4C. Promote opportunities to obtain fresh foods in Miami-Dade County neighborhoods by encouraging the development of community gardens; fresh produce stands, farmer

markets; small businesses such as vegetable and fruit markets, butcher shops, fish markets; and grocery markets by providing flexibility in the zoning code and other regulations.

CHD-4D. Ensure that all neighborhoods have multi-modal access to fresh food products.

CHD-4E. Encourage the establishment of farm-to-school initiatives and community supported agriculture programs.

Objective CHD-5

Enhance natural systems through performance criteria for capital improvements.

Policies

CHD-5A. The County shall investigate onsite stormwater management alternatives, such as bio-swales and green roofs, which reuse stormwater and reduce the rate of runoff from impervious surfaces.

CHD-5B. Enhance street cross section design standards to incorporate planting strips for both stormwater percolation and tree planting to provide shade.

CHD-5C. Implement and maintain the Miami-Dade Street Tree Master Plan to ensure an adequate urban forest and street tree coverage to reduce localized heat island effect.

CHD-5D. Encourage parking structures and increase tree plantings in surface parking lots to reduce the heat island effect attributable to exposed, impervious surfaces.

Monitoring Program

In order to enable the preparation of the periodic Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) as required by Section 163.3191, F.S., the Minimum Criteria Rule (Rule 9J-5, F.A.C.) requires that local comprehensive plans contain adopted procedures for monitoring and evaluating the Plan and its implementation (Sections 9J-5.005[1][c][3], and 9J-5.005[7], F.A.C.). The section of Rule 9J-5, F.A.C. pertaining to minimum standards for optional elements was repealed in 2001, XI-10 but the general requirements for comprehensive plan elements still apply. Hence, a Monitoring Program is included. There are no Level of Service standards for this element. This section outlines the substantive features of Miami-Dade County's monitoring program pertinent to the objectives, policies, and parameters referenced in this Element. It should be understood that the proposed program might be refined over time, as more experience is gained. Undoubtedly, by the time that the next EAR, which would include this Element, is prepared the measures and procedures outlined herein will have been modified somewhat to reflect practical considerations. The administrative requirements for monitoring and preparation of the EAR as outlined in Section 9J-5.005(7), F.A.C. are not repeated here. They are outlined only in the Land

Use Element to avoid redundancy. The reader is referred to that Element for a summary of those procedural requirements.

For the purpose of evaluating and assessing the implementation of the Community Health and Design Element in approximately Year 2017, each objective will be reviewed as follows to monitor the degree to which it has been reached.

Objective CHD-1: Miami-Dade County shall apply design standards to the public domain to encourage physical activity.

Mode split between car trips and other forms of transportation.

Objective CHD-2: Miami-Dade County shall apply design standards to private development projects to encourage physical activity.

Shift in development density patterns to infill areas, transit-oriented developments, and overall vehicle miles travelled per-capita.

Objective CHD-3: Institute safety measures through urban design and material standards.

Vehicular/pedestrian accidents – ratio compared to population.

Bicyclist/pedestrian accidents – ratio compared to population.

Objective CHD-4: Promote local food production and improve access to healthy food products for all residents of Miami-Dade County.

Percentage of locally grown products consumed in Miami-Dade County.

Number of markets within walking distance to residential development.

Objective CHD-5: Enhance natural systems through performance criteria for capital improvements.

Number of trees planted.

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